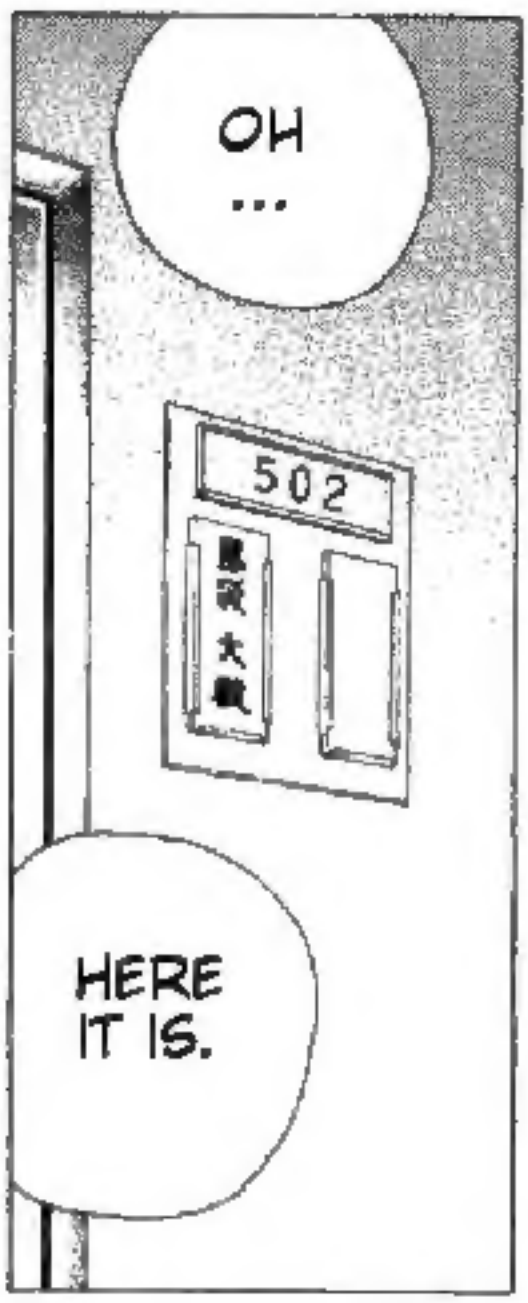
SO SOMEHOW HE ENDED UP GOING TO THE HOSPITAL IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS SCHOOL TRIP ...
IT'S NOT EVEN HIS FIRST ONE, THOUGH ...

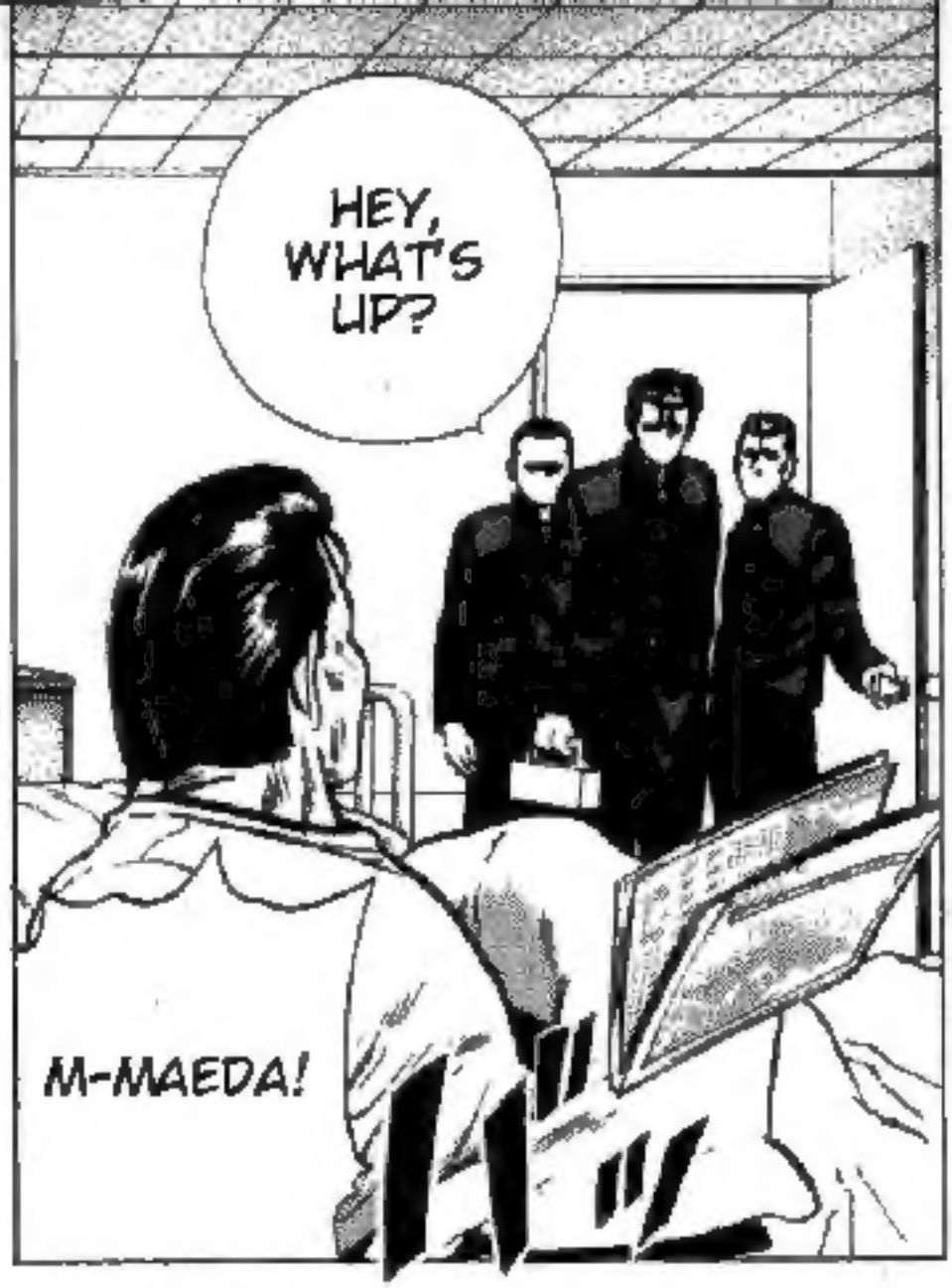
WHAT'S WEIRD IS THAT THE YONEKURA GUYS SAID HIS HEAD WASN'T EVEN THAT BAD ...

旅の終わりに


OH ...
502
HERE IT IS.

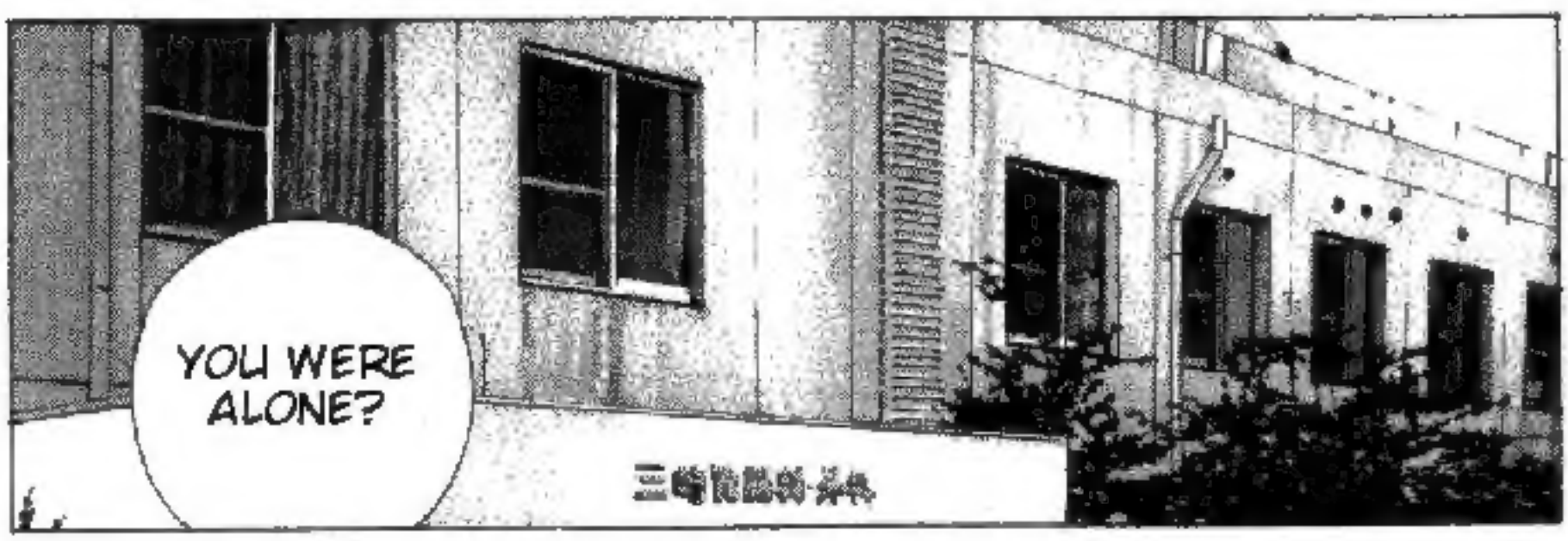
OH, YEAH, DIDN'T THEY RUN A LOT OF TESTS AND STUFF ON YOU?
DIDN'T YOU END UP GOING WHEN YOUR HEAD GOT CRACKED OPEN BY THAT MIDDLE SCHOOL KID, UH...
OH, HIROTO?

I'M JUST ... I ...
I GOT A REALLY HARD HEAD.
BUT YOU GOT ONE TO THE HEAD, AND YOU'RE PRETTY MUCH THE SAME AS ALWAYS, MAEDA-SAN.


HEY, WHAT'S UP?
M-MAEDA!

YO ...
click

HUH?


YOU WERE ALONE?

UGH!
tap
GYAHAHAHA! WHAT DID I TELL YOU? THIS GUY CANNOT TELL A LIE!

HE TOOK ME HERE.
NAH, ONE OF THE TEACHERS WAS FOLLOW-ING ME... ALL THAT TROUBLE FOR ME.

WE OWE YOU.
JEEZ, RELAX, MAN.

IF YOU GOT NO-THING TO SAY, GET LOST!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU EVEN HERE FOR ANYWAY?

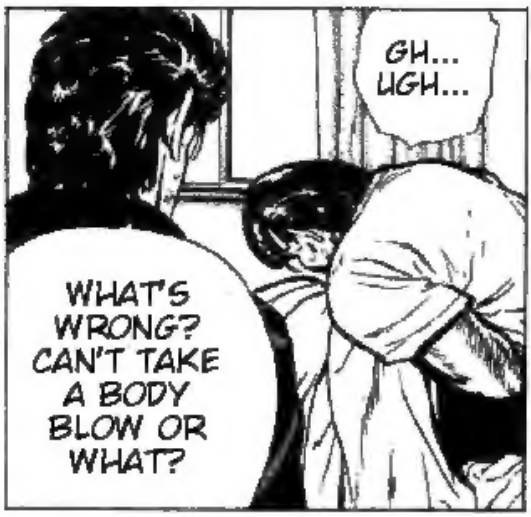
WAIT... WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?
N-NO-THING.

IF YOU WEREN'T THERE, I'D HAVE BEEN IN DEEP SHIT.
I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA GET MY ASS KICKED JUST LIKE LAST TIME...

I'M JUST GLAD THAT YOU UN-DERSTAND.
THAT'S PRETTY MODEST FOR YOU, HUH, MAEDA?

LIKE SHOW-ING ME A LITTLE RESPECT ...
.....
WHY DON'T YOU TRY CHANGING YOURSELF A BIT TOO?

HMM ...
SO THANKS A LOT, SHIMA-BUKURO.


GH... UGH...
WHAT'S WRONG? CAN'T TAKE A BODY BLOW OR WHAT?

DON'T JUST START ACTING ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY, DUMBASS!

DON'T TELL THEM!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HIM? HIS STOMACH'S-

H-HEY! S-STOP THAT!
HEY, GUYS, I FOUND HIS WEAK POINT!
poke
LET US DO IT TOO!

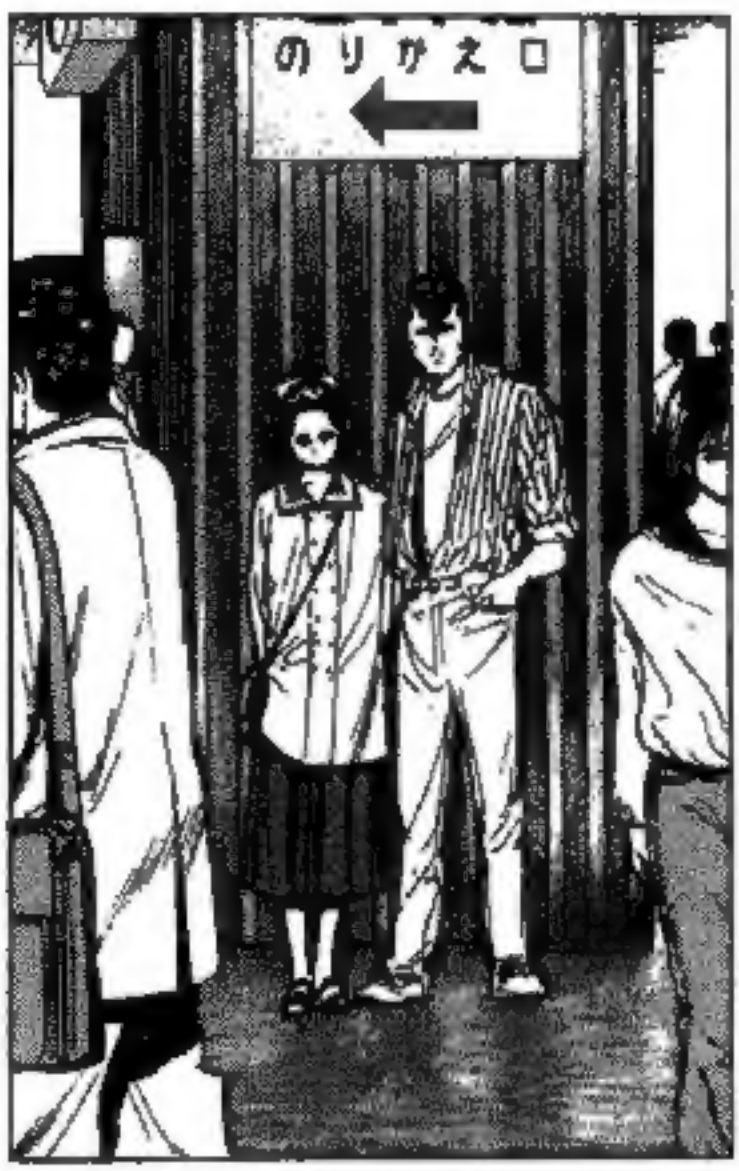
HEY ...
NOW GO AWAY, DOUCHE-BAGS!

.....
SEE YA!
JUST A LITTLE SOMETHING WE WANTED TO GIVE YOU BEFORE WE WENT BACK! EAT THEM!

SIGN: SHIN-OSAKA STATION

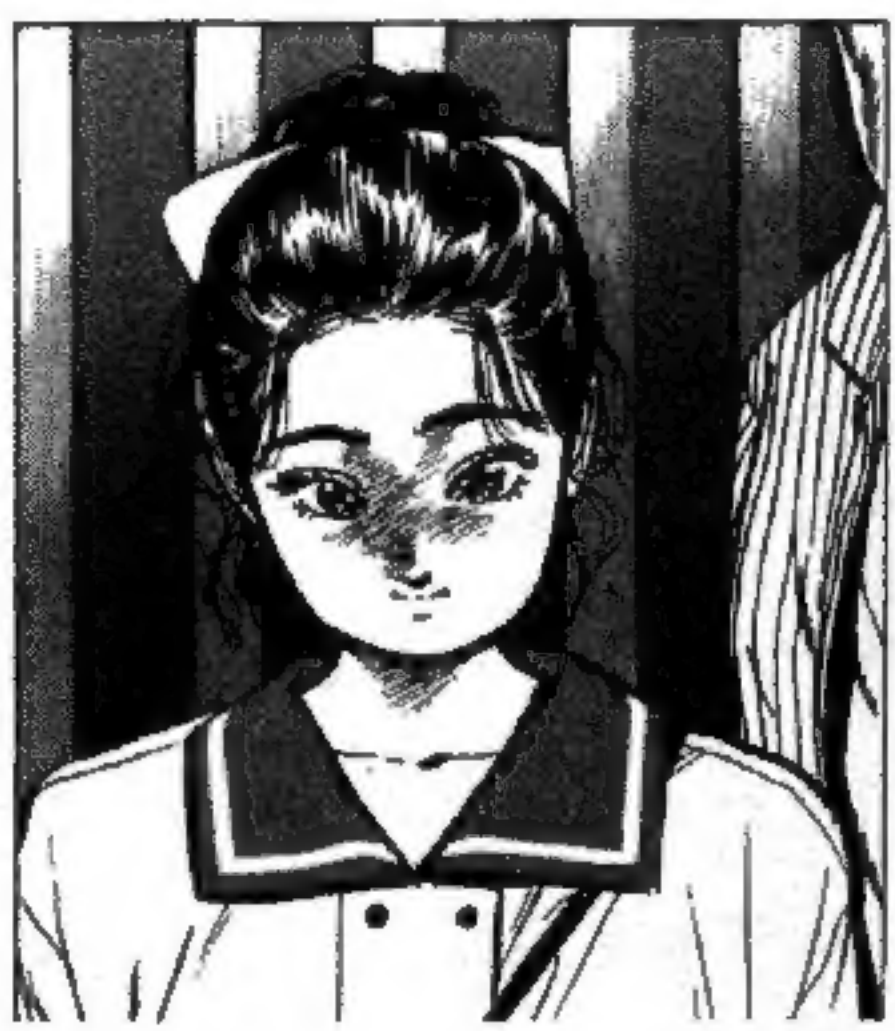
HEHE ...
WHAT DID HE TELL YOU ANY-WAY?
WHAT ABOUT HIS EX? DID SHE HAVE A PONY-TAIL?

IT WASN'T THAT ...
OHH ... I GET IT ...
DID HE ASK YOU OUT?


のりかえ口

BUT THE WHOLE PONYTAIL THING'S NOT REAL-LY A BIG DEAL...
HE DIDN'T REALLY SAY MUCH ...
OH ...
HUH?

JR線
WAIT ... ISN'T THAT HER?
HEY ...



OH!

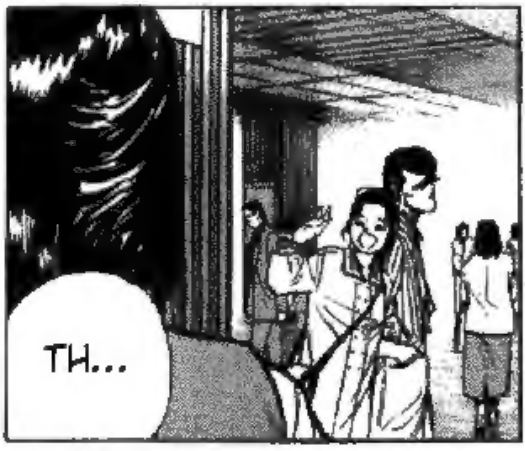
WE CAME TA SEE YA OFF!
TOGETHER!

I'M GONNA KEEP RYUU-TAROU TOO!

DON'T LOSE HIM TA ANYONE!
GOOD LUCK!

.....

?
THANKS!


TH...

WH... THAT'S THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE CALLED ME THAT...
LET'S GO, RYUU-TAROU.
HEHE ...

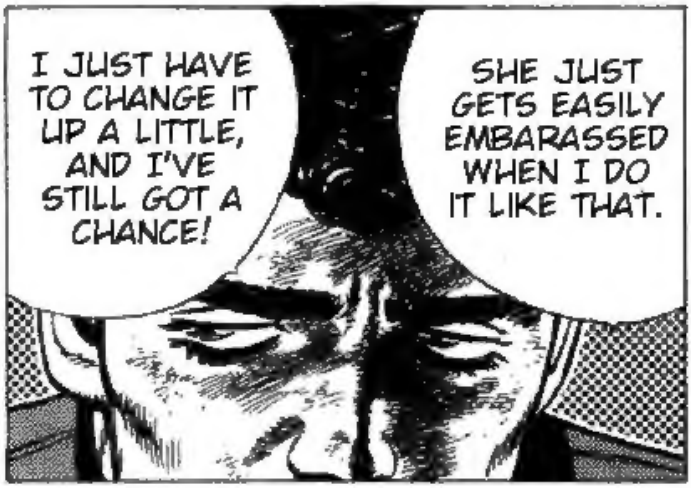
NOT REAL-LY...
DIDN'T YA COME TA SEE MAEDA?

GOODBYE, TAISON!

UH ...
QUIT TALKING LIKE SHE REJECTED ME!

ONE DAY, YOU'LL GET A GIRL WHO'S GREAT FOR YOU!
CHEER UP, HEI-CHAN!
.....

YOU GUYS!
HUH?


I JUST HAVE TO CHANGE IT UP A LITTLE, AND I'VE STILL GOT A CHANCE!
SHE JUST GETS EASILY EMBARASSED WHEN I DO IT LIKE THAT.

EXACTLY. I HAVE THE UTMOST CONFIDENCE IN NAKAJIMA.

WAIT A MINUTE! ISN'T IOKA KEEPING AN EYE ON YOU OR SOME-THING?
IF I DON'T KEEP TABS ON EVERY-ONE, WHO WILL?

YOU HAVE TO HURRY UP OR ...

YOU'LL MISS THE TRAIN.

NO, IT'S FINE. I CAN CARRY MY OWN THINGS...
PLEASE HURRY UP ...

YOU ALREADY SAY GOOD-BYE TO SAYURI?
YEAH.

WHAT THE HELL'S WITH YOU?
OW!
HEY, GET A MOVE ON!

HUH ...

I HATE YOU...
I HAD TO PROMISE I'D ALWAYS BE WITH HER.

WHOA ... TAISON!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, ANIKI?

IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE HE'D LET ME LEAVE.
I MANAGED TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE.

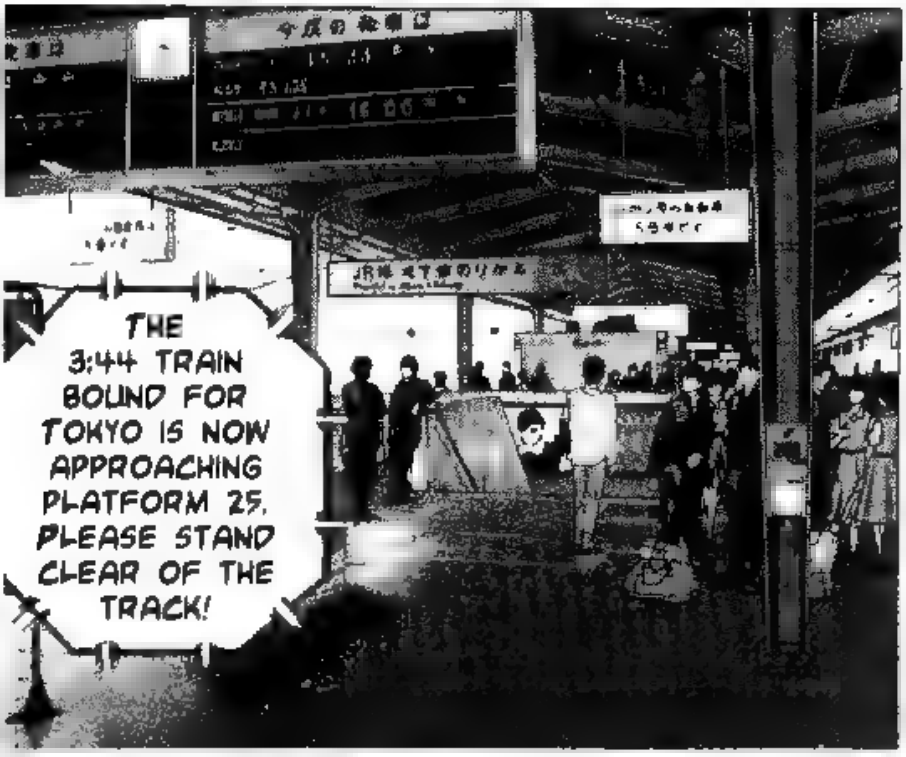
IT'S HIM.

DAD SAID WE COULD DO WHATEVER WE WANTED, SO I'M COMING HOME BEFORE MY LADIES GET TOO LONELY!

THE TEMPLE? THAT'S YOUKOU'S DEAL NOW.
BUT WHAT ABOUT ...

.....

.....
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO BE A BOXER, YOU SHOULD GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE DAD CHANGES HIS MIND AND GOES AFTER YOU OR SOMETHING!


THE 3:44 TRAIN BOUND FOR TOKYO IS NOW APPROACHING PLATFORM 25. PLEASE STAND CLEAR OF THE TRACK!

.....

HUH?
UH ...

HEHEH... SUCK IT, DAD, I'M ALREADY HERE!

WHAT IS IT?

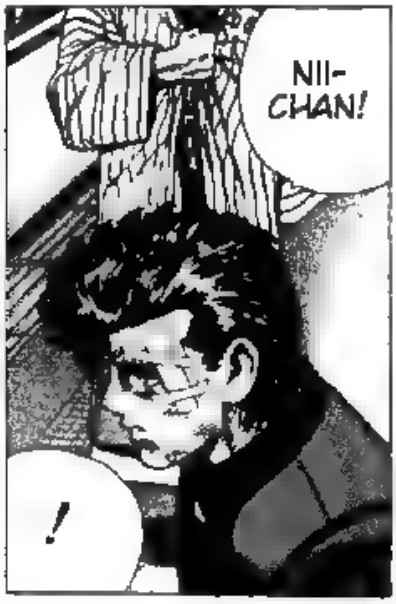
GWAH!

WHA ...

I WANTED TA SAY SOME THINGS TO YA.
YOU WERE ALREADY HERE?
D-DAD!

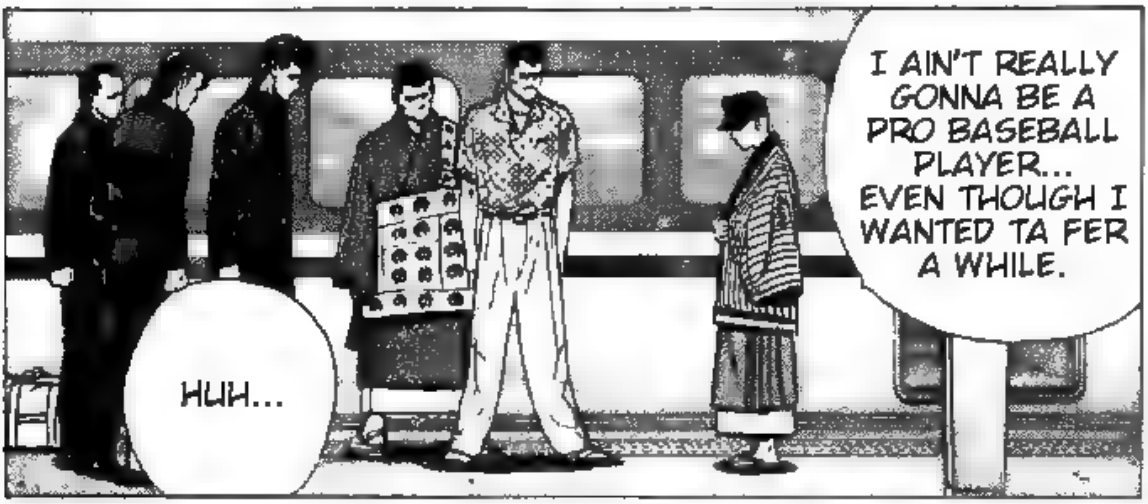
YA LEAVIN'?
TAI-SON ...

YOUKOU!

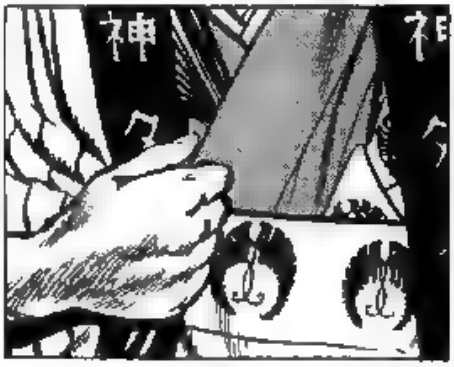

NII-CHAN!
!

HE HE ...

.....


I AIN'T REALLY GONNA BE A PRO BASEBALL PLAYER... EVEN THOUGH I WANTED TA FER A WHILE.
HUH...

GAH!



BOTH OF YA GOTTA MAKE YER OWN DREAMS COME TRUE.
I'M FINE HERE.
I GOT A NEW DREAM.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS HERE.
YOUKOU, YOU...

IT'S THAT YA BECOME THE WORLD CHAMPION.

BUT YA PROBABLY WANNA FIGHT A LITTLE WHILE LONGER.
WHEN YA BECOME A PRO, YA CAN'T FIGHT OR THEY TAKE AWAY YA LICENSE.

!

...
YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT?
YOU CAN'T FIGHT WHEN YOU'RE A PRO...?

MAKE SURE MY NEW DREAM COMES TRUE.

AND ...
SO WAIT UNTIL YA GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL... AND THEN YA CAN BE A PRO.

I'LL WATCH YA TITLE MATCH, TAISON.
.....
YOU-KOU ...

DAD ...
HE'S OLD ...
K.O. SHIRAI!

GOT IT.

K.O. CHAVEZ!

.....

I NEVER REALLY DID MUCH FOR YA, BUT ...
MAKE SURE YA TAKE CARE OF YA BODY.

.....

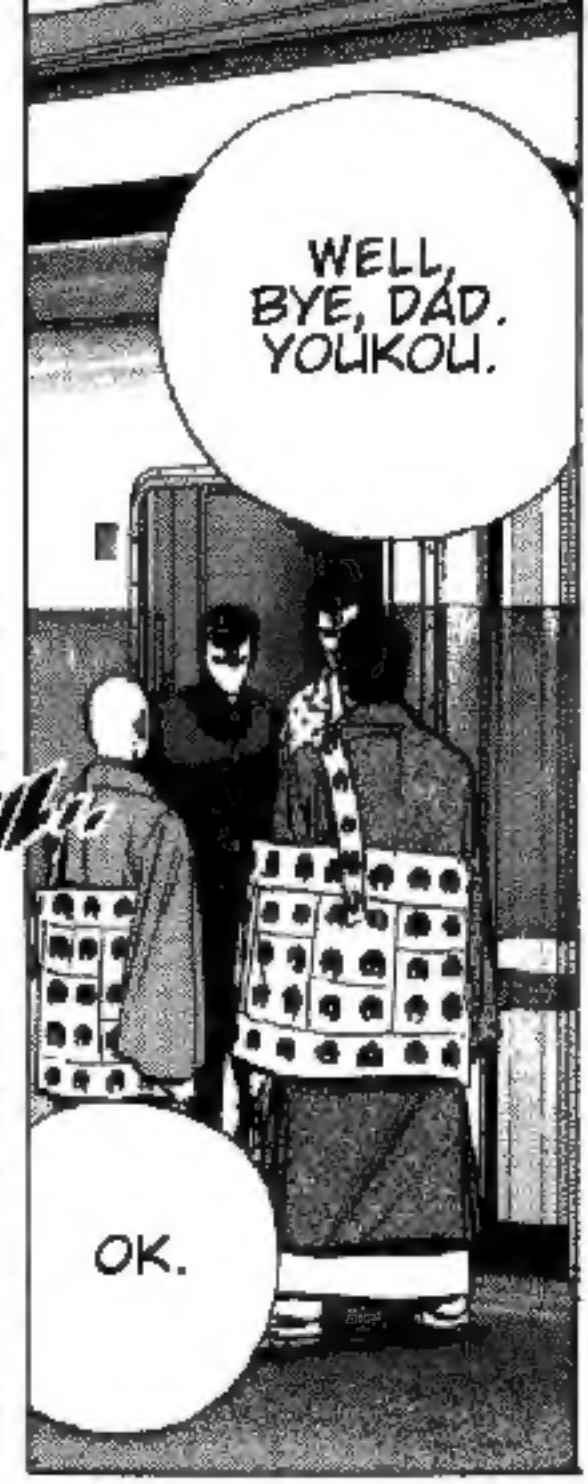
Y-YEAH!
FUJIO.

THE 3:44 TRAIN ON PLATFORM 25 WILL BE LEAVING SHORTLY.

.....

OH... YEAH.
HEY, GET ON!

YA BETTER ...


WELL, BYE, DAD. YOUKOU.
OK.

BECOME WORLD CHAMPION!

TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

PG. 17 - YOUKOU AND MAEDA'S DAD NAME DROP TWO BOXERS. THE ONE MAEDA'S DAD MENTIONS IS YOSHIO SHIRAI, THE WORLD CHAMPION OF BOXING...IN 1952. YOUKOU MENTIONS JULIO CHAVEZ, THE CURRENT LIGHT WELTERWEIGHT WORLD CHAMPION...IN 1990, WHEN THIS CHAPTER WAS PUBLISHED.

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